

## **Committee Meetings**

### **USDA—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT PRACTICES**

*Committee on Agriculture:* Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing to review the information technology procurement practices of the USDA. Testimony was heard from Anne Thomson Reed, Chief Information Officer, USDA; and Joel Willemssen, Director, Information Resources Management Issues, GAO.

### **LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education continued appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from Alexis M. Herman, Secretary of Labor.

### **FINANCIAL MODERNIZATION**

*Committee on Banking and Financial Services:* Continued hearings on Financial Modernization, including H.R. 10, Financial Services Competitiveness Act of 1997. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Hearings continue May 21.

### **FINANCIAL SERVICES REFORM**

*Committee on Commerce:* Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials held a hearing on Financial Services Reform, focusing on Consolidation in the Brokerage Industry. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **SAVINGS ARE VITAL TO EVERYONE'S RETIREMENT ACT**

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Ordered reported amended H.R. 1377, Savings Are Vital to Everyone's Retirement Act of 1997.

### **FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS— NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORT**

*Committee on Government Reform and Oversight:* Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice held a hearing on National Guard Support in the Fight Against Illegal Drugs. Testimony was heard from Brad Owen, Lt. Governor, State of Washington; Michael Bowers, Attorney General, State of Georgia; and public witnesses.

### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE; ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS; COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

*Committee on House Oversight:* Ordered reported S. Con. Res. 26, to permit the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a congressional ceremony honoring Mother Teresa.

Committee adopted a motion to authorize issuance of two subpoenas to the Immigration and Naturalization Service in connection with the Contested Election in the Forty-sixth District of California.

The Committee also considered other pending committee business.

### **CARIBBEAN: AN OVERVIEW**

*Committee on International Relations:* Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere held a hearing on the Caribbean: An Overview. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of State: John Hamilton, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Central America and the Caribbean; and Joseph Sullivan, Special Coordinator for Haiti; and public witnesses.

### **SECURITY AND FREEDOM THROUGH ENCRYPTION ACT; CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT—PROHIBITING FLAG DESECRATION**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 695, amended, Security and Freedom Through Encryption (SAFE) Act; and H.J. Res. 54, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

### **APPREHENSION OF TAINTED MONEY ACT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held a hearing on H.R. 1494, Apprehension of Tainted Money Act of 1997. Testimony was heard from, Robert S. Litt, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice; Lawrence M. Noble, General Counsel, FEC; and public witnesses.

### **JUDICIAL REFORM ACT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property held a hearing on H.R. 1252, Judicial Reform Act of 1997. Testimony was heard from Representatives Hyde, Bryant and Manzullo; Henry A. Politz, Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; Anne Williams, District Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois; from the following officials of the State of California: Dan Lungren, Attorney General; and Richard Mountjoy, Senator; and public witnesses.

### **EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS**

*Committee on Rules:* Granted by voice vote, an open rule providing 1 hour of debate on H.R. 1469, 1997 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from Natural Disasters, and for Overseas Peacekeeping Efforts, Including Those in Bosnia.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment printed in the rule shall be considered as adopted.

The rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 (prohibiting unauthorized or legislative provisions in a general appropriations bill) or clause 6 (prohibiting reappropriations in a general appropriations bill) of Rule XXI, except as specified in the rule.

The rule also waives all points of order against each amendment printed in the Rules Committee report which may only be offered in the order specified, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall be offered only by the member designated in the report, and is not amendable.

The rule accords priority in recognition to those Members who have pre-printed their amendments in the Congressional Record prior to their consideration. The rule also allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill, and to reduce the vote to 5 minutes on a postponed question provided that the vote follows a 15 minute vote.

The rule waives points of order against all amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI (prohibiting non-emergency designated amendments to be offered to an appropriations bill containing an emergency designation). Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY POSTURE

*Committee on Science:* Held a hearing on Department of Energy Posture. Testimony was heard from Federico Pena, Secretary of Energy.

## COMMERCIAL VESSEL SAFETY

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing on Commercial Vessel Safety. Testimony was heard from Rear Adm. Robert C. North, USCG, Assistant Commandant, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

## VETERANS ADMINISTRATION'S COMPENSATION AND PENSION SERVICE

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Benefits held a hearing on operations within the VA's Compensation and Pension Service using Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) principles, to review the adequacy of VA's efforts in the processing of Persian Gulf War claims for compensation, and to discuss legislation to limit the liability

for compensating and treating veterans with smoking-related diseases. Testimony was heard from Kristine Moffitt, Director, Compensation and Pension Service, Department of Veterans Affairs; Stephen Backhus, Director, Veterans' Affairs and Military Health Care Issues, GAO; and representatives of veterans organizations.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1997

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

*Committee on Appropriations,* Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, to hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for foreign assistance programs, focusing on combatting infectious diseases worldwide, 10:30 a.m., SD-138.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,* to hold hearings to examine the United States and allied efforts to recover and restore gold and other assets stolen or hidden by Germany during World War II, 10 a.m., SD-106.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,* to hold hearings on S. 255, to provide for the reallocation and auction of a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum to enhance law enforcement and public safety telecommunications, 9:30 a.m., SR-253.

Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space, to hold oversight hearings on staff reductions for fiscal years 1997 and 1998 for the National Weather Service, 2 p.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,* Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health to review the Columbia River Basin Environmental Impact Statement, 2 p.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Finance,* Subcommittee on International Trade, to hold hearings to examine market access issues for United States agricultural exports, 2 p.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations,* Subcommittee on African Affairs, to hold hearings to examine terrorism in Sudan, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Labor and Human Resources,* to resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Higher Education Act, focusing on student aid delivery systems, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Small Business,* to resume hearings on the Small Business Administration's finance programs, 9:30 a.m., SR-428A.

*Committee on Veterans Affairs,* to hold hearings to examine allegations of sexual harassment in the Department of Veterans Affairs, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

*Select Committee on Intelligence,* to hold closed hearings on intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.